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REMARKS

ON THE

BLOACHEE, BRODIA AND ARABIAN COASTS,

BY

Lieutenant JOHN PORTER in the *Dolphin* Brigg.

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LONDON, 1781.

Jos: Banks

No. 72 *Titchfield Street*, 16*th April* 1781.

THE following Sheets were tranſmitted to me in 1775, by my deceaſed Friend Commodore *John Watſon*; I have thought it proper to give the Publick this Letter in the very words of the *original*, as a correction in the ſtile might have conveyed a character of the Author, different from the truth; but every one may now judge for himſelf.

The *Coaſts* here deſcribed are ſo little known, that every *Particular* muſt be acceptable, and we have ſcarcely any account of them ſince the time of ALEXANDER the GREAT; the Journal of his *Admiral* NEARCHUS may be found in *Arrian*, tranſlated by *Rooke*, vol. 2. p. 241. and alſo by *Dr. Campbell* in his *Edition* of *Harris's* Voyages, vol. 1. p. 400.

ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE.

Remarks on the *Bloachee*, *Brodia* and *Arabian Coaſts*, addreſſed to *John Watſon*, *Eſq.* Superintendant of the Honorable Company's Marine at *Bombay*, by Lieutenant *John Porter* in that Service, who commanded the *Dolphin Brigg* on *thoſe Coaſts*.

COAST OF SCINDY.

THE Land about *Scindy* is very low, covered with ſhrubs, and not to be ſeen above five or ſix Miles; and continues ſo, without any thing remarkable, till within three or four Miles of the mouth of *Larry Bunder River*, and then it terminates in *Sand*, the extreme Point only excepted, on which are ſeveral *tufts* of *Buſhes*, and *ſome bamboes* ſtuck up with *white flags* on them, which are to be ſeen before the *Land*; the *Soundings* all along are regular, with mud bottom, we found a *tide* to ſet W N W and E S E, five fathom per hour.

LARRY BUNDER.

From the mouth of *Larry Bunder River* is to be ſeen part of the *high Land* over *Crochey*, and appears according to the *drawings* *, there is nothing remarkable between *that place* and *Crochey*, the Land by the water ſide is low, interſperſed with ſhrubs; but up the Country there are ſeveral hummocks of a moderate height.

CROCHEY.

The entrance of *Crochey* is eaſily known by a *white Tomb*, built on a piece of Land, which, at a diſtance, appears like an Iſland, and ſeveral Iſlands to the Northward; the *drawing* of that place is very exact, and coloured according to its natural appearance, which is whitiſh, the *entrance* into the *Bay* is generally between the Promontory on which the *white Tomb* ſtands, and the *largeſt* of the *Iſlands*, but in caſe of neceſſity, a ſmall veſſel may paſs or anchor between *any* of the

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* *N. B.* None of the *Views* mentioned in this Tract were ſent to me, if any Perſon is in poſſeſſion of them, the Communication will be thankfully acknowledged.

Iſlands; the bottom is *ſandy*, as it is all over the Bay, the *Sands*, *Shoal*, &c. can be better conceived by the *draught* of the *bay* than any deſcription.

CROCHEY.

Crochey Town is ſituated about five or ſix Miles from where the Veſſels lay, and about a Mile from the ſide of a *creek*, which has not water enough in it for any thing elſe than ſmall boats. It is fortified by a ſlight mud wall, and flanked with round Towers, and has only two Cannon mounted in all, and thoſe ſo old, and their carriages ſo crazy, as would render the firing of them unſafe. It formerly belonged to the *Bloachees*, but the *Prince* of *Scindy* finding it better ſituated than any part of his *Sea Coaſt*, for the *Caravans* from the *Inland Countries*, made an exchange with ſome other place for it. It ſeems the *Caravans* cannot come from the *Inland parts* of the Country to *Tatta*, on account of the *branches* of the *River Indus* being ſo wide and deep as to render it impoſſible for Camels to paſs, but having no ſuch difficulty in their road to *Crochey*, they carry on a great Trade; they import from the Country a great quantity of *Cotton raw* and *ſpun*, which they export to the *Malabar Coaſt*, *Arabia*, &c. likewiſe *Almonds*, *Raiſins*, *Dates*, *Gram*, *Ghee*, *Oil* and *Hides*, and ſome *piece Goods*; they carry up in return *Sugar*, *Rice*, *Pepper*, &c. The *water* is not very good, and very dear by reaſon of the diſtance it is from the *Bunder*; *Black Cattle* and *Goats* are to be had, but not very reaſonable, in compariſon with *Scindy*. The People are very civil and did not take any Cuſtom from the Honorable Company's Cruizers, tho' very particular with regard to the Merchants. The *Land* at the back of *Crochey* is pretty high and extends ſo to *Cape Montze*, but the weather being ſo very hazy could not delineate it with any exactneſs; but the *Land next the Sea* runs ſo low as not to be ſeen except cloſe in ſhore. The *Cape* is of a moderate height and drawn as exact as poſſible.

CAPE MONTZE.

COAST OF PERSIA.

CHILNEY ISLAND.

The *Iſland* of *Chilney* appears, as the drawing, of a whitiſh colour, and there is good ſoundings between it and the main.—When round the *Cape* the Land forms a kind of a *Bay*, and is, as in all other parts of the *Coaſt*, extremely low by the *Sea ſide*, and very high in the *Country*, and the Soundings very regular, chiefly mud :

COAST OE PERSIA.

mud: there is, about ten Miles from the *Cape*, in ſhore a *Rock above water*, about as high and as big as the *Oyſter Rock* at *Bombay*, there is three and four fathoms all round it and cloſe to it; and in turning it up the Coaſt, may venture to ſtand pretty cloſe in, keeping the lead going till you near *Sommeany*, at which place the *Barr* runs out a long way, and is dry in ſome places at low water.

SOMMEANY.

All along the *Coaſt* from *Cape Montze* to *Sommeany* there is great quantities of *Wood* and *Timber*, being waſhed up in the SW. Monſoons, eſpecially in that *hollow* which runs in from the *Cape*; where, without exaggerating, think there is ſufficient to load all his Majeſty's Ships in India, but as there is a large ſurf the bringing it off muſt be attended with ſome difficulty.

Sommeany is a *ſmall Town*, ſituated in the *entrance* of a *River*, and has the remains of an old Mud Fort, their houſes are nothing more than matts and ſticks very ſmall, every thing is very ſcarce, even the water, which is got in this manner, they pick out ſome place near the *Town*, which appears formerly to have been a ſwamp, at which place they dig a hole five or ſix feet deep and as much in Diameter, and if the *water* [ouzes] through the *Sand*, as it ſometimes does not, it ſerves them that day and perhaps the next, when it turns *quite brackiſh*, owing to the nitrous quality of the Earth. The *Town* is ſcarcely diſcernable from the Road, therefore could not draw it, or the land about it, having nothing very particular near the Sea ſide; the *beſt mark* that I know for finding it, is a *remarkable Gapp* in the *high Land* at the *back*, which if the weather is clear enough to permit its being ſeen, cannot eſcape notice, and when it bears NNE½E the *River's mouth* bears NEbE, diſtant about 2 Miles in 4 leſs 4 fathoms.

The Land from hence runs along extremely low next the Sea, but the back is very cragged, and continues ſo to *Cudjerah*, but the *drawing* of that part of the *Coaſt*, with the *high Land* of *Kingalah*, can convey a truer Idea than any deſcription I can make.

There

There is a remarkable *white heap* of *Land*, in a kind of a Valley between *Arrah* and *Cudjerah*, which cannot eſcape notice, being very high, and is repreſented in the *drawings*.

CUDJERAH.

Cudjerah at firſt appears to run out to a *low point*, but terminates in a bluff as *per* its laſt appearance with *Cape Moran*. After running five or ſix Miles from thence to the Weſtward, you ſee the *Rocks* of *Kingalah*, which appear, unleſs very cloſe in, to be out in the Sea; but they are on the edge of a low ſandy Point, as *per drawing*, which repreſents the *Coaſt* to *Moran* better than any deſcription, and the Shore is very bold all along, but the *Bank* does not run off above 12 Miles, and then deepens all at once from 25 or 30 fathoms to no Ground. In advancing near *Moran* you ſee *Cape Arabak* which appears juſt like an *Iſland*, and in that a perſon might not be undeceived till they run to the bottom of the *Bay*, which is pretty deep, and a Land ſo very remarkable, can need no better deſcription than the *drawing*, which is as exact as poſſible in every different point of View; there is a ſmall bay on the Weſt-ſide of the *Cape*, but ſo ſhallow as not to afford a ſhelter for Veſſels, and the *Land* is very craggy for 7 or 8 Miles to the Weſtward, from whence you may ſee the *Iſland* of *Aſtola*, which at firſt riſing out of the water, appears very long and even at top, 'tis of a moderate height, and about 2 or 3 Miles in length, and there is very good Soundings, all the way between the *Iſland* and the *Main*, but on the *South ſide* it runs off *foul ground* and *over falls* for 12 Miles; on the *North ſide* is two or three ſmall *ſandy Bays*, on which great quantities of *Turtle* reſort, and the drawings can convey the general appearance of the *Iſland* much better than I can deſcribe; but there is one thing which I muſt obſerve, that is, on the *South ſide* there is a *Rock*, which at a diſtance appears like a *Sail*, but on a nearer approach, with the help of a litle imagination, might be taken for a *Camel lying down*. There is a *River* on the *Main*, a little to the Eaſtward, but the *Barr* at the *Entrance* is ſo very *ſhoal* as not to admit a paſſage for a ſmall boat; the *Land* on the *Main* all along is very cragged, but nothing very remarkable, till you come to *Cape Poſſmee* or *Poſſmy*, which appears juſt like the *top* of an *old Barn*, in coming from the Eaſtward, but varies according to its different points of view, which I have

COAST OF PERSIA. I have endeavoured to delineate as exact as poſſible; and from whence is formed a *ſmall Bay*, at the bottom of which there is a *ſmall Town*, called according to the name of the *Cape*; chiefly inhabited by fiſhermen. The *Caravans* come down here and truck their commodities, chiefly conſiſting of *Dates*, *Cotton*, and *dryed Hydes*, for *Salt fiſh* which they carry up in the country; *Dingies* likewiſe call here in coaſting it along ſhore, and diſpoſe of their cargoes, chiefly conſiſting of *Rice*, *Ghee*, &c. Their manner of trade is, when they arrive at a *Town* where there is a probability of ſelling any thing, to go on ſhore and build a hut, and retail their goods out, and receive in their room, *Hides*, *Cotton*, &c. and then proceed to the next Town. The *People* are *Blochees*, and behave very civil; *Water* is to be procured in the ſame manner as at *Sommeany*. *Goats* are to be procured here very lean, and not very reaſonable.

SHIED. After leaving *Cape Poſſmy*, the *Bluff point* of *Shied* makes like an *Iſland*, being the extream to the Weſtward, the *high land* of *Duram* appearing at the ſame time like another *Iſland* to the Northward of it, and the *Land next the Sea* is ſo very low between theſe *two head lands*, that even on a nearer approach, makes it appear like a *deep Bay*; the *land* all the way from *Shied* to *Cape Guardel* is drawn, therefore needs no deſcription, and the ſoundings are very regular. *Muddy Peak*, which makes one of the extreams of the *Bay*, is very high, of a white colour, and may be ſeen at a great diſtance; appearing exactly like the drawing of it. *Cape Guardell* itſelf not being of any great height, and perſons making the Land any where about *Guardell*, may be certain where they are by that *Peak*, which is one of the moſt remarkable pieces of Land in the World;

GUARDELL. *Guardell Bay* is pretty deep, but ſhallow water, except towards the entrance where there is 12 or 13 fathoms, but ſhoals as you go up not very regular, but there is no danger as we could find, the bottom is chiefly ſand. The *Town* is ſituated cloſe under the *North ſide* of the *Cape*, which is a *Peninſula* being joined to the *Main* by a *neck of land* not half a Mile over; and from one Bay to the other, is the remains of an *old wall* and *Towers* which defended the *Town* from any aſſaults which might be offered them by *Land*. There is the remains of an *old Town* built with ſtone, and ſome *Wells*, but the in-

habitants live in Matt-houſes as in all other parts of that Coaſt. Trade formerly flouriſhed here, but by civil Wars, &c. it was ruined. The greateſt part of what few people are here are *Weavers*, they weave ſuch *Cloth* as ſerves their own Market, which is *dark Checks* and very *narrow*, and ſome *plain Carpets* of *different Colours*, but not *rough*; they ſay there are ſeveral *large Towns* in the Country, and one ſituated between *Poſſmy* and *Guardell*; but the *principal Town* they talk moſt of is *Lahore*, from which they are ſupplyed with *Curious Matchlocks* of *inlaid work* and *Scymitars*, which are for the moſt part, *watered* after the manner of the *Damaſkan Blades*; or in ſhort, any thing of conſequence comes from thence: they ſeem to be very deſirous of our ſettling on their Coaſt, and ſay, would the Engliſh ſend Veſſels, or admit any body to ſtay there, people would come out of the Country and Trade might flouriſh, the Roads being very good for the Caravans to come out of the Country; the people from *Crochey* to *this Place* call themſelves BLOCHEES, and from *this Place* to *Jaſques*, BRODIES: there is ſome difference in their language, tho' I could obſerve none in their dreſs, or manners, and their difference is more than I can comprehend unleſs in ſome form of Religion, as the people at *Poſſmy* do not acknowledge a King; and the people at *Guardell*, being likewiſe *Blochees*, reckon themſelves ſubordinate to *Chewabad* which are *Brodies*, tho' it ſeems the heads of theſe two places are Brothers. They do ſay that they have a King, but he is ſo far off that they are independant of him; *Water* is got here in the ſame manner as at places before mentioned, as they own the water in the proper built Wells not ſo good; *Goats* and *Sheep Fowls*, &c. may be bought here as in other parts of the Coaſt; found a *ſtrong Current* ſetting to the Eaſtward when clear of the *Bay*; there is a *ſmall Bay* to the Eaſtward, but it affords but very little ſhelter; from whence to *Vouch Bay* the *Land* is of a moderate height next the Sea, but at the back is the moſt *unaccountable cragged Land in the World*, ſome of it being ſo very cragged as to render it impoſſible to be delineated with any exactneſs, tho' part of it to *Noa Point*, I have after the craggy land was ſhut in, done very exact, and at one particular place where there is *rocky ground* and *overfalls*, I have drawn in order to ſerve as a

COAST OF PERSIA.

as a *Mark* for that *Place*; the Soundings all along ſhore are regular with mud bottom, and pretty bold.

NOA. When abreaſt of *Noa Point* the Land on the *other ſide* of the *Bay* is not to be ſeen, or at the *bottom* of the *Bay*, only a *Hummock* or *two* which look like *Iſlands*; the *Land* at the *bottom* of the *Bay* being very low and covered with Shrubs, is not to be ſeen till within 3 or 4 Miles, and then the *Buſhes* are to be ſeen firſt, we found a *ſmall Town* at the *bottom* of the *Bay* inhabited by fiſhermen, who informed us they had been plundered of every thing by an Army from a *large City* four or five days journey off, and that they were going to quit the place and ſettle at *Chewabad*, the *Bay* tho' very large and deep has very *ſhoal water* all over it, as may be ſeen by the Chart; in croſſing right over the Bay from *Noa Point* you firſt ſee a ſmall *lump* on the oppoſite ſhore which I have remarked in the drawings, which *lump* ſtands on the *high Land*; there is an *Iſland* which unleſs very cloſe in cannot be diſtinguiſhed to be as ſuch, nearly under where that *lump* is, and ſtands in the *mouth* of a *ſmall Bay*, called by the Natives, *Bucker Bunder*, where they go to fiſh, and ſay it is a place of reſort for the *Sangarians* and *Seede Jercuds Gallivats* from *Jefferabad*, who go there in order to look out for the *Dingies* trading along the Coaſt; after rounding the *Point* of the *Bay*, you ſee ſome very high cragged *Land*, and to the Weſtward of it a *roundiſh hill*, which being remarkable have drawn; from whence to *Chewabad* you muſt keep cloſe in ſhore, the *Bank* running but a very little way out, and the *Current* ſet at the time we were there (in the beginning of January) two knotts to the Eaſtward, therefore by ſtanding off, if it ſhould *Calm*, as it generally does between the *Land* and *Sea winds*, you muſt unavoidably drive back to the Eaſtward again; the *Current* runs much ſtronger out than it does in ſhore; in keeping along ſhore you have equal Soundings, tho' very deep, and the bottom for the moſt part ſand or ouzey; the *Land* is of a moderate height from the aforementioned *hills* till you come to the *low Point* making *Chewabad Bay*, it then runs very low, and over which you firſt ſee a *white Tomb* and *ſome Trees*, which are ſeen before the *Town* of *Chewabad*. In going in you muſt give the *low Point* a good birth,

as

as there are *Rocks* run out from it, but may borrow as close as you please to *high Point*, being deep Water, close in; there is a small *Mud Fort*, but *no Cannon*, and the *Town* is composed of *straggling Mathouses*; there is about One Hundred *Banyans* settled there and they have a small *Buzar*, and tho' it may with justice be called the *best place* on the *Coast*, yet, *bad is the best*; *Goats* are to be had here very reasonable and *Sheep*, but *Bullocks* and *Fowls* are not to be got. Tho' the ground here, as all along the Coast, is of a sandy and unfruitfull appearance, yet in some small *Gardens*, where care has been taken to cultivate, has afforded very good *Vegetables* of the different kinds, among the rest, the *finest Turnips* I have seen since I left England, *Benjalls*, *Onions*, *Potatoes*, *Carrots*, &c. are very good but scarce.

The People, who call themselves *Brodies*, are very civil and very desirous of our settling on their Coast; the Principal Man told me he should be very happy if the English would take possession of *Fearsa*, which, formerly was a Settlement belonging to the Portuguese, of which there is still some remains, the situation I have represented in the Drawings of that place with *Chewabad*, The *Water* is very good and easily got being very near the Water side, there are many *Weavers* here who make such *Cloth* as serves for their own Market, the same as that made at *Guardell*, some of which is *Silk* and *Cotton twiled*. There is a *Town* they say, *very large* and extensive, and *properly walled round*, about a Week's journey up the Country; but on account of the Famine which rages at present throughout the whole Country, the People desert it very fast, many hundreds come down to *Chewabad* to go over to *Muscat*, and many others take a different rout and travel with their families by Land to *India*. *Tearsa*, before *Chewabad* was built, used to supply the *Arab shore* with *Ghee*, &c. but not having any *Rain for six years* there is *no Grass* to feed the *Cattle*, of consequence they have died and now they have *no Ghee* but what comes from *Scindy* and that is amazing dear; I saw some very *fine Horses* there, and there was two large Dingies which came for *Horses* for *Heyder Ally*, therefore believe they must be very plenty, and their present scarcity of Provisions must make them come cheap; there is a great deal of *Cotton*, *raw* and *spun*, likewise *hides*

and

COAST OF PERSIA.

and ſome *piece goods* and *Shawls*, which come out of the *Country* and are exported to *Muſcat*. It ſeems the Perſon whom they acknowledge to be their King is depoſed, and the *Nabob*, as he ſtiles himſelf, at *Chewabad*, is gone to pay his Obedience to the new King, which is a Month or ſix Weeks journey, but the name of the Country he lives in, or his own, I could not learn, as they give different accounts. There is here and there a family to be met with all along the Coaſt who keeps a few *Camels* and *Goats*, and ſubſiſts on their milk and a *Seed* which they *beat out of a wild plant*, which looks like *over grown graſs*, and a *ſmall kind of fiſh* which drives on Shore dead in many places.

CHEWABAD BAY.

Chewabad Bay is very ſmall, with a ſandy bottom, the Water decreaſes gradually as you go up, and the *tide* riſes and falls a *fathom* on the Springs, it is ſituated in the entrance of a *large Bay*, the water in which is very *ſhallow*, but even ground; the *low Point* of *Chewabad* makes one Point of the Bay and the *head Land* called *Colab* or *Tiſme* makes the other; the *Land* between *Tearſe*, and *Colab* is very low covered with ſhrubs, and *Colab* appears according to the drawing of that place, and affords good ſhelter from the Weſterly winds; as it ſometimes blows very hard from that quarter: from thence the Weſtmoſt Extream is *Godeim*, which appears *level at top* and juſt like an *Iſland* at firſt appearance, the *Land* on each ſide being very low; the *Land* from *Colab* runs along of a moderate height till it terminates in a *remarkable bluff*, which is repreſented in the drawings, between *which* and *Godeim* is a ſmall *ſhallow Bay*, but *too ſhoal* for Veſſels to go in, the *Land* round it is very low, but at the back there is ſome very Craggy hills and pretty high; *Godeim* is a head Land very level along the top with very ſteep clifts next the Sea, as *per* drawing, from whence you ſee a remarkable piece of Land called *Coelat*, and appears likewiſe as *per* drawing, near which, to the Eaſtward is a ſmall *River* called *Tanka* with about two fathoms Water at the *entrance*, at low Water, but the Soundings are very irregular, and for the moſt part hard Sand; about three Miles up which, they ſay, is the *ruins* of an old *Portugueſe Fort*, *Buzars*, *Wells*, &c. between *this Place* and *Muxon* there is nothing particular in the appearance of the *Land*, only that it bears a better face with regard

to fruitfulneſs than any we hitherto ſaw, as the Valleys in moſt places ſeemed full of *Date Trees*. *Muxon* I make no doubt has been taken for *Jaſques* very often, as it appears according to the directions for knowing it; It runs out to a low Point and has at its extreme a little *Tower* built of *Mud*, which is inhabited by ſome *Fackeers*; they, with a few other miſerable people, live in this *deſolate place* on the *Shell fiſh* they pick up at low water, without any other Grain or Dates, unleſs at the time of year they are in ſeaſon; *Bombarick* may be ſeen from this place but not to be diſtinguiſhed very plain to be ſuch, the *Land* betwixt *it* and *Jaſques* is very low by the Sea ſide but very high inland, and contains ſo many doublings as to render it impoſſible to be drawn with exactneſs, as the leaſt difference in point of View makes a conſiderable difference in its appearance, only there is one very high piece of Land which I take to be that called in the Directory by the name of *Mountaine de Chour* which appears as *per* drawing, and is to be ſeen when *half way* over to the *Arabian* ſhore.

MUXON.

At the *Extreme Point* of *Cape Jaſques* is a *River*, which appears ſo very *full* of *banks* and *ſhoals* as not to be entered, even by a Boat; and for a *particular mark* have drawn the appearance of a *remarkable piece* of *Land* over the *entrance*, the Points themſelves are very low, and indeed not higher than a Sand bank; and as the ſhore itſelf is very bold, a perſon might be cloſe in, if the weather is hazy, before he could ſee the low Land; there is a ſmall *piece of a cliſt* or ſomething, on *one Point*, but it is ſo ſmall as not to be ſeen till very cloſe to the *Points*; *Bombarick* is not in the Sea as has been imagined, but very *near the Beach*, and has on one ſide a *ſmall hole*. The *Land* to the Northward of *Bombarick* is of a moderate height and delineated according to its appearance; The *Arab ſhore* is ſeen very plain in clear weather from this ſhore, which muſt be the *Land* to the Northward of the *Swadys*. After leaving *Bombarick* and running to the Eaſtward enough to make 44 Miles on a *Rhumb*, I ſteered due South for the *Arab Shore* and made the *Land* juſt to the Northward of *Muſcat Iſland*. *Montagne de Chour*, bearing due North of me as long as I could keep ſight of it; as the *Land* over *Muſcat* is of a prodigious height, you ſee it a long time before you can judge with any certainty

COAST OF PERSIA.

tainty till you are close in shore whether you are to the Westward or Eastward of *Muscat* but by knowing *Cape Coriat*, which appears much the same in many different points of View, and which I have drawn with as much exactness as possible.

MUSCAT ISLAND.

Muscat Island generally appears yellowish, as does some *round Hummocks* at the back of it, and some *white sandy Beaches*, and the *Rocks* which *form* the *harbour* very black and cragged, but I would advise all persons bound to *Muscat* to stand close in shore, by which means he can always be sure of knowing the *Land*, or have an Opportunity of anchoring if it falls Calm, for the *Current* which generally runs as the Wind blows is generally very strong in the time of the North Wester's, and Vessels, by keeping out, may stand a chance to be drove along way to Leward, which is often the case; and when it does fall out so, it is no easy matter to fetch up again, as here is in many places no anchoring ground; and even where there is, it is too close to venture a large Ship. Tho' there is no ground close to the outer side of *Muscat Island*, yet within side there is very good, and all along that shore above *Muscatt*, tho' very deep water, and chiefly sandy or ouzy bottom; from *Muscat* the *Eastmost Swady* bears NWbW. distant 20 Miles, the body of the *Swady Islands* run East and West. There is an exceeding good passage between them which is marked in the Drawings D. and E. but from D there runs out a *shoal* for two or three Miles, on which there is not *above one or two fathoms* water, therefore in going between these Islands, it is best to borrow close to E. as there is not the least danger even when close to it; within E. is the *Island* the Natives call separately by the Name of *Swady*, between *which* and the *Main* there is *no passage*; but between it and E, there is a very good one; as it is more remarkable than any of the others, and not to be seen at the same time with them, I have drawn its appearance separately.

Muscat formerly bore the Name of one of the most Hospitable and best governed Nations in the World, and not without some foundation, till the Reign of the present *Imaum* commenced, and now it may very deservedly

ſervedly bear juſt the contrary; He himſelf by fraud got the Government, and every individual of his ſubjects endeavours to follow his laudable Example in cheating and extorting wherever they can find an Opportunity. The preſent Imaum was General to the former, but having accumulated a very great Fortune, by Bribery and Corruption found means to gain over to his intereſt a ſufficient number of People to ſet him on the Throne, after depoſing the good old Man whoſe family for many ages back had filled it with ſo much Honor; The News of this Traitor's behaviour reached the Ears of the Imaum by a truſty Slave juſt time enough for him to make his eſcape, and in what place he took up his reſidence is not known, but he found means to make his caſe known to the Cawn of Perſia, and requeſted his aſſiſtance, who immediately landed a very large Army in Arabia, and while things were in confuſion conquered it, but not with a View to place the old Imaum in the Government, but to anſwer their own ends, accordingly took a large ſum of Money from the Uſurper to place him on the Throne, who was alſo to pay him a yearly Chout, which as he has not fulfiled for ſome years paſt, is the occaſion of the preſent War between them.

The Cawn of Perſia has a ſufficient number of People to over-run Arabia but wants the means of tranſporting them over, having no Veſſels of ſufficient force to prevent the Imaum from deſtroying them all in their paſſage, and the Arabs, inſtead of acting in the defenſive, have in the Offenſive, and made themſelves Maſters of ſome ſmall places on the Perſian Coaſt, among which *Ormuſe* is one, and taken likewiſe a ſmall bow'd Ship from them, Carim Cawn the beginning of laſt Month ſent Embaſſadors with preſents to the Imaum requeſting him to return the Ship he had taken, and to make good the loſſes they had met with, by ſending a certain Number of Arms, &c. of different kinds, to the Value of the loſſes he had ſuſtained by the War, and on theſe terms was willing to make peace; the Imaum it ſeems would not return any thing he had taken, and did not chuſe to make peace, unleſs the Cawn would pay him ſo much more than the Value of what he had taken, as his expence in fitting the Fleet out came to: He has given the Embaſſadors one of his largeſt Ships and a

Gallivat

COAST OF PERSIA.

Gallivat to carry them back, with a preſent of leſs Value than that received by him; the above account I gathered from the Inhabitants, but know not if their Veracity is to be doubted or not.

MUSCAT.

The *Town* of *Muſcat* is walled round, and none but *Arabs* and *Banyans*, or *Chriſtians* are permitted to live *within the Gates*; the *fugitive Perſians*, *Blochees*, &c. of which there is a great Number, live *without the Gates* in Matt-houſes, and tho' the Rocks about it has the moſt barren appearance, yet they have very fine *Beef* and *Mutton*, and *Vegetables* and *fruit* of *moſt kinds* very good and reaſonable; the Water, which is one of the deareſt articles here for Shipping, is conveyed, from above a Mile without the Gates to the Sea ſide, thro' a ſmall Channel made with Chinnam and Stones, from the Well where it is drawn, to a Reſevoir from which it is let out by a leather Hoſe into the Boat which may haul cloſe under. *Fiſh* may be reckoned to be as Cheap and as great a variety and plenty as in any part of the World, of which in a mixture with Dates and a kind of Earth and water they make a food for their Cattle, which is extremely fatning and is their common food. There is *another Town* nearly as big as *Muſcat* about three Miles from the Town itſelf, called *Muttro*; between *which* and *Muſcat*, are ſeveral *ſmall Towns*, ſituated in the Valleys, chiefly inhabited by fiſhermen; At *Muttro* is a very good *hard* to haul Veſſels on, and tho' they have an indifferent good one at *Muſcat*, yet they always ſend their largeſt Veſſels to *Muttro* to be cleaned, it is defended by a *ſmall Fort*, which is built on a *hill* on one ſide the Town; There are *two ſmall Forts* to guard the *Entrance* of *Muſcat harbour*, and no Veſſels are allowed to go in after duſk, or come out without a paſſport; there are two *large Forts* on each ſide the *Town* which not only command the *Harbour* but the *Town*, that on the left was built by the *Portugueſe* when they had poſſeſſion of that Place, it has a Tier of 15 Guns which faces the *Cove*, and there is ſome *Cannon* planted on the back, which commands a *ſmall Bay* which is formed by *thoſe Rocks*, which make *Muſcat harbour*; There is a paſſage between them into the *Harbour*, but has not above one fathom, at high Water, on a *Ridge of Rocks* which join to the *large Rocks*, the paſſage is between; and a Veſſel that can't

weather the *Rocks* which make the *Harbour*, as it is ſometimes very difficult in the North Weſters, may run into the *Bight* or *Bay* without any fear of danger, and find good Anchoring Ground tho' very cloſe in; there is a *Town* which may be ſeen a long way off called *Cittab*, which lies in a *ſmall Bay* (In this *Bight*) in which you Anchor in 10 or 12 fathoms as you chuſe, the bottom fine Sand and the Water *as ſmooth as a Pond*, let it blow ever ſo hard from the NW. As *Muſcat Town* is not two Miles by Land from this Place, you may ſend and be ſupplied with every thing you want; It ſeems ſtrange that tho' all the Rocks about this place are *Lime Stone*, and that the *Lime works out of the Rocks itſelf without the help of Fire*, there is very little made uſe of, and the large houſes in the *Town* are built with *Mud*, inſtead of *Chinnam*.

CITTAB.

From *Muttro* there is a very good Road along ſhore, a number of little Villages here and there all the way; As the Ground is low and appears not uncapable of Cultivation having a great deal of the *barbull buſhes* and where there are houſes, *Date Trees*; The high Land at the back is quite barren, of a reddiſh Colour, ſomething reſembling the ruſt of Iron, out of which are a Number of natural Caſcades, the Water coming from thence is very (hot) and at a *Town* called *Buſhire* it is ſo much ſo, that it is as much as a Perſon can bear to go into a hole which is made for a *Bath*, into which the *Water* runs, it is reckoned Sovereign for all diſorders of the Skin; I tryed ſeveral experiments with it, but could find no difference either in Colour or Taſte with other Water; the People which live here have no other Water to drink or make uſe of, and their Gardens are all watered from it, and the place ſeems to be very fruitful, between this *Town* and *Muſcat*, and about 2 or 3 Miles from it, is *another Town*, in which is built a very good houſe by the Vackiel, for his own reſidence in the heats, and likewiſe a number of Baths and houſes for People who chuſe to ſpend any time at this place, all of Stone and Chinnam; and a Channel which reaches near a Mile, to convey the Water into the Vackiels own Haram, the Water is not ſo hot as at *Buſhire*, and they reckon it to have different qualities; between the *Ridges* of theſe *Rocks* there appears to be *beds* of *many ruins*; and at a *ſmall Town*, not above two Miles from

Muttro,

COAST OF PERSIA.

Muttro, the *common Wells* from which they draw all their Water is more than *Milk warm*, and what may be reckoned ſtranger is, that in the *hot Baths* before mentioned there are great numbers of *little fiſhes*, about the ſize of what they call *Tittlebats* in England, which are *full of fins* and *very prettily ſpotted*, but ſo very nimble that I could not catch one, and the Country People are ſo very ſuperſtitious as to believe whoever catches them will meet with immediate death;

Having ſaid as much as I think is neceſſary concerning *Muſcat*, proceed to the Eaſtward.

CORIATE.

After leaving *Cittab*, and keeping along ſhore, found no ground with 40 fathom line, till I arrived at the *Point Coriate*, the *Bank*, which is chiefly Sand, does not run above two or three Miles from the ſhore and ſhoals gradually from 30, or 25 fathoms all the way in, beſides the *high Land*, it may be eaſily known by a *long range* of *Date Trees*, ſome *houſes* and a *ſmall Mud Fort*, to be ſeen over them, and a *Rock* pretty high out of the Water, cloſe in ſhore; there is Soundings almoſt all the way to *Ruſſelgate*.

Fewee is juſt under the *high Land* of *Colliate* (which is not a *Cape* as generally imagined) between *two Ridges* of *Rocks*, and there is no Soundings within Piſtol Shot of the ſhore with 40 fathoms line; Boats came off and the People ſaid there was good Water, which they would bring off if deſired; there are ſeveral *ſmall Villages* all the way along ſhore, but *no River* or *Creeks*; and Boats with fiſh will come on board any Engliſh Veſſel that is paſſing that way; After leaving the *high Land* of *Colliate*, you ſee a *long piece of Land*, of a moderate height, extending along to the Eaſtward *like a Point*, under which there is a great number of *fiſhing huts*, which appears like *ſeveral Towns* together, from which place it is reckoned by the Natives about ſix Courſe, to a large *City* called *Zoare*, in which there is a good *Buzar* and a number of *Banyans* who carry on a great Trade. The *Fox's Boat*, who went on ſhore at the fiſhing Town, found the People rather impertinent than otherwiſe; It does not belong to *Muſcat*, but a different government, and the People are not called *Arabs*, but *Buddues*; there is Soundings cloſe in ſhore from this

Place

Place to *Ruſſelgate*, which is not above three or four Leagues, and in the way there are ſeveral *ſmall Creeks* running up; the *River* which goes up to *Ruſſelgate Town*, is about half a Mile wide at the Entrance, but opens in a kind of a *ſmall Bay*, in which there is ſhelter for ſmall Veſſels, but it is not ſafe to venture on ſhore, as the People are not to be truſted, the *Bank* does not run a Mile from the ſhore, but ſhoals very regular and has $3\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms Water cloſe to the *low ſandy Point*, which makes *Cape Ruſſelgate*; the houſes, appearing over the Sand bank, ſeem to be very well built with Mud and many of them with Terraces, likewiſe a ſmall *Cotte*, or place of defence, to retire to in caſe of an aſſault, which does not appear to have any Guns mounted in it: there is a *View* of an appearance of the *Town* with the *Entrance* of the *River*, by which may be formed a pretty good Idea of the Place, there is likewiſe the appearance of the *Land* over it from the Eaſtward, but as it was very hazy could not ſee the *high Land* of *Colliate*, which otherwiſe might be ſeen very plain; With ſubmiſſion to ſuperior judgment, ſhould think it beſt to make the *Land* rather to the Northward, in coming over from India in the Months April or May, for if you meet with Southerly Winds they generally come round to the Eaſtward, and ſometimes blow hard from that quarter, as the Extreme *Point* of *Ruſſelgate* is ſo very low as not to be ſeen till cloſe in with it, and as the *Currents* at that time of the year are reckoned to ſet to the Weſtward, might be drove in with the *Land*, before it might be expected by the reckoning, to the danger of the Veſſel. When making it a little to the Northward you have the Gulph open.

Sir

If the above Remarks ſhould prove acceptable to you, I ſhall think myſelf extremely happy, and beg leave to Subſcribe myſelf,

Your obliged and moſt Obedient
Humble Servant,
J. PORTER, Lieutenant.

To
JOHN WATSON, Eſq.
Superintendant of the Honorable Company's
Marine of Bombay.